

Please amend paragraph [0012] as follows:

[0012] First connecting conductor 21 which belongs to left, first electrode 11 is run inside molded housing 5 beneath compression spaces 3 and exits molded housing 5 on the right side. Second connecting conductor 22 which belongs to right, second electrode 12 exits molded housing 5 on the right side as well. A ferromagnetic body 10 affixed in molded housing 5 extends above compression spaces 3. First connecting conductor 21 runs in such a manner that the current through liquid metal 8 and through second connecting conductor 22 is directed in the opposite direction, as a result of which a first electromagnetic force component F1 is exerted on the current in liquid metal 8. The action of the magnetic field influenced by ferromagnetic body 10 exerts a second electromagnetic force component F2 on the current in liquid metal 8. Both force components F1 and F2 are directed essentially upward but have no significant effect on the current in liquid metal 8 during the normal operation of current-limiting device 1. During the occurrence of an external short circuit, however, force components F1 and F2 increase to such an extent that the developing current-limiting electric arc is considerably deflected inside compression spaces 8 and thus lengthened. This condition is indicated by broken line L in Fig. 1. Due to the lengthened, meander-shaped course of the electric arc, the arc resistance increases to a considerable degree. Because of the thus reduced ratio of the let-through current to the triggering short-circuit current, an improved current-limiting factor is achieved via current-limiting device 1. The lengthening of the current-limiting electric arc is additionally promoted by the staggered arrangement of connecting channels 9 belonging to adjacent intermediate walls 6.

Page 6, first line change "What is claimed is" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP00/00479 and add new claims 8-15 as follows:

--8. (new) A self-recovering current-limiting device including a liquid metal, the device comprising:

a first and a second electrode for connection to an electric circuit to be protected, each of the first and second electrodes being made of a respective solid metal;

a plurality of pressure-resistant insulating bodies;

a plurality of insulating intermediate walls supported by the insulating bodies, the plurality of insulating intermediate walls and the plurality of pressure-resistant insulating bodies defining a plurality of compression spaces, the plurality of insulating intermediate walls defining a plurality of connecting channels, the plurality of compression spaces being disposed one behind the other between the first and second electrodes and being at least partially filled with the liquid metal;

a first connecting conductor connected to the first electrode and disposed below the plurality of compression spaces and having an inverse current direction; and

a ferromagnetic body disposed above the plurality of compression spaces.

9. (new) The device as recited in claim 8 wherein the first and second electrodes are associated with a first pole of the device and further comprising a second and a third electrode associated with a second pole of the device.

10. (new) The current-limiting device as recited in claim 8 wherein the ferromagnetic body includes a material having an initial permeability greater than 500.

11. (new) The current-limiting device as recited in claim 8 wherein the ferromagnetic body extends substantially over a total longitudinal length of the plurality of compression spaces.

12. (new) The current-limiting device as recited in claim 8 wherein the first connecting conductor is disposed inside at least a one of the plurality of insulating bodies.

13. (new) The current-limiting device as recited in claim 8 wherein the ferromagnetic body is secured by at least a one of the plurality of insulating bodies.